

Attorney Docket No. 32407-PCT-USA-A
PATENT

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 were pending. To advance the prosecution of this application, Claim 1 is amended herein without prejudice to Applicants' right to pursue any canceled subject matter. Applicants have added new dependent Claim 6, which mirrors the subject matter of Claim 2, and thus does not constitute new matter or present additional issues. As such, Claims 1-6 will be pending upon entry of the instant amendment.

The amendment to Claim 1 is fully supported by the specification and does not constitute new matter. In particular, the amendment to Claim 1 relating to an **immunocompetent** mammal rendered immunologically tolerant to human hepatocytes is supported by the instant specification at paragraphs [0021], [0023] and [0092] and in the drawings. For example, the Summary of the Invention states that "the present invention provides for a method of preparing a non-human animal having a liver comprising human hepatocytes, comprising [] inducing tolerance in an **immunocompetent** host non-human animal."

The Examiner has asserted that the claim phrase "normal immune system" lacks proper antecedent basis in the specification and does not meet the written description requirement. The claims have been amended to replace the phrase "normal immune system" with the term "immunocompetent" which is fully supported by the as-filed specification. Accordingly, Applicants request that the outstanding objections to the specification and rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

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Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, and entry of the foregoing amendments and remarks into the file history of the above-identified application. Applicants believe that in light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the claims are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with respect to any outstanding matters.

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Respectfully submitted,



Lisa B. Kole
PTO Registration No. 35,225

Peter J. Shen
PTO Registration No. 52,217

Attorneys for Applicants
Baker Botts, LLP
(212) 408-2500